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3. (Once amended) The asphalt roofing structure composition of Claim 1, wherein the alkaline earth metal hydroxide is between 1-10% by weight of asphalt.

4. (Once amended) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the alkaline earth metal hydroxide is between 3-5% by weight of asphalt.

5. The composition of Claim 1, wherein the filler is fly ash.

6. The composition of Claim 1, wherein the filler is CaCO₃.

7. The composition of Claim 1, wherein the filler is MgCO₃ or MgCO₂:CaCO₃.

8. (Once amended) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the alkaline earth metal hydroxide is first added directly to the asphaltic base of the asphalt composition.

9. (Once amended) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the alkaline earth metal hydroxide is first added directly to the filler of the asphalt composition.

10. (Once amended) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the alkaline earth metal is added first to the filler then to the asphaltic base of the asphalt composition.

11. (Once amended) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the asphalt composition is between 30% to 60% asphalt by weight.

12. (Once amended) An asphalt roofing structure, comprising:

a substrate form selected from the group consisting of roll roofing and shingle substrates;

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an asphalt composition applied to the substrate form, the asphalt composition comprising a heated mixture of an asphaltic base, filler, and water; and

wherein the asphalt composition also has included therein an amount of hydrated lime sufficient to improve tear strength and durability properties of the asphalt structure, the hydrated lime being formed by the addition of an alkaline earth metal oxide to the asphaltic base, the alkaline earth metal oxide being selected from the group consisting of CaO, MgO, and CaOMgO, the alkaline earth metal oxide reacting with water in the filler to produce the corresponding alkaline earth metal hydroxide.

13. (Cancel) The composition of Claim 12, wherein the alkaline earth metal oxide is selected from a group consisting of CaO, MgO, and CaOMgO.

14. (Once amended) The composition of Claim 12, wherein the alkaline earth metal oxide is between 1-10% by weight of asphalt.

15. (Once amended) The composition of Claim 12, wherein the alkaline earth metal oxide is between 3-5% by weight of asphalt.

16. The composition of Claim 12, wherein the filler is fly ash.

17. The composition of Claim 12, wherein the filler is CaCO_3 .

18. The composition of Claim 12, wherein the filler is MgCO_3 or $\text{MgCO}_2\text{CaCO}_3$.

19. (Once amended) The composition of Claim 12, wherein the alkaline earth metal oxide is first added directly to the asphaltic base of the asphalt composition.

20. (Once amended) The composition of Claim 12, wherein the alkaline earth metal oxide is added first to the filler with water, the oxide and water thus reacting to form the

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corresponding hydroxide, the hydroxide and filler then being added to the asphaltic base of the asphalt composition.

21. (Once amended) The composition of Claim 12, wherein the asphalt composition is between 30% to 60% asphalt by weight.